

POLICING REFORMS

POLICING REFORMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

Highly publicized instances of police misconduct and the ensuing protests and civil unrest throughout the country have demonstrated the need for difficult conversations about policing reforms at the federal, state and local levels.

These conversations must include municipal officials who often bear the responsibility and liability in cases of police misconduct, through legal action and monetary compensation.

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) is committed to being a partner with the General Assembly, the Illinois Congressional Delegation and all other interested parties in seriously working on the issues of policing reforms and racial equity.

October 9, 2020

IML ADVOCACY

IML believes that a one-size-fits-all approach to policing reforms will not work. IML's positions on aspects of this topic generally fall into the following general parameters:

IML SUPPORTS

- Arbitration and collective bargaining reform, including efforts to remove disciplinary provisions from arbitration and collective bargaining agreements
- Increased funding for public safety (not defunding) that can support additional training
- Increased funding that can support the establishment of officer wellness programs
- Expanded diversity hiring and promotion opportunities through increased funding from state and federal sources
- Increased state and federal resources to establish and support community engagement efforts
- Additional state and federal funding for body worn cameras, data storage and data management

IML OPPOSES

- Efforts to decrease, diminish or remove qualified immunity for lawful actions
- New or expanded mandates without adequate funding or support

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO DISCUSS

- Limitations on use of force and outlining parameters for intervention when police misconduct occurs
- The establishment, composition and authority of civilian review boards
- Consideration of police officer licensing and a related national or statewide certification database
- Re-tasking mental health intervention and response to state and local health department personnel
- Preservation of local authority to establish policies on the use of force, investigations of misconduct and police pursuits

WHERE WE STAND

As the statewide representative of the 1,298 cities, villages and towns in Illinois, IML is committed to discussing not only these issues, but all aspects pertaining to policing reforms. Through cooperative and collaborative efforts, municipal officials and legislators have an opportunity to restore trust and accountability between police officers and the citizens they are sworn to protect and serve, while making Illinois a model for others to follow. Additional IML resources on policing reforms are available at iml.org/policingreforms.

